

LESSON

Victory and Defeat

Sabbath

Do Do this week's activity on page 25 .

As you did last week, imagine that you are waiting for your father to return from helping friends move to another region. Now you hear that he must also help them attack and conquer some cities. Continue to read the messages between a young Hebrew, Baram, and his father, who is helping the rest of the Israelites enter Canaan. (See Joshua 6; 7; 8; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 487-504.)

Sunday

Read Read "Victory and Defeat."

Share Share your "battle trumpet" you made in Sabbath School with someone. If you were not present, think about what God might want you to do to serve Him this week and share your thoughts with someone.

Learn Begin to learn the power text.

Pray Pray that God will direct your service to Him.

Baram!

You will never guess how Adonai conquered Jericho for us! For six days, we marched silently around the city, but on the seventh day Adonai delivered Jericho into our hands!

- Again, we arose early and began marching around the city, but instead of circling it only once, we marched around it seven times. On the seventh time around the city, the priests blasted their trumpets and all of the soldiers began to shout. You



FOUR

POWER POINT

can't imagine what a deafening sound it was as thousands of men shouted and the trumpets blasted! Then we all gave one very loud shout, and the walls collapsed!

We all rushed over the broken rock and mortar and entered the city from every side. Everything was destroyed, every living thing except the woman Rahab and her family. She had protected two Hebrew spies when they were in danger of being captured in Jericho. We were instructed to collect all of the precious metals such as silver, gold, bronze, and iron and set them aside for the treasury of Adonai. Everything else was to be burned. We were not to take anything for ourselves.

Baram, I tell you this so you will know of Adonai's awesome victory over Jericho.

—Abba

Shalom, Abba,

I love your stories from the Promised Land. I'm sure that every battle will be as easy as conquering Jericho. We don't even have to fight! Adonai fights for us! The God of Israel rules. I can't wait for your next letter. Please write soon.

—Baram

Our service will be a success when we follow God's plan.

POWER TEXTS

"Do what the Lord has commanded"

(Joshua 8:8, NIV).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding"

(Proverbs 3:5, NIV).

Monday

Read Read Joshua 6.

Draw Draw a diagram of the order of the Israelites' positions as they walked around Jericho. What was God's strategy for the battle of Jericho?

Think What walled-in areas of your life are you still hiding behind? How secure do you feel behind those walls? How could God give you victory over those walls if you followed His plan?

Pray Pray that you will faithfully follow God's instructions to you.

Shalom, Baram,

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Ai has been destroyed, every last person. Our people plundered the city's riches and took all the livestock too.

The bad news is that 36 of our men died in battle and one in camp. Let me

Tuesday

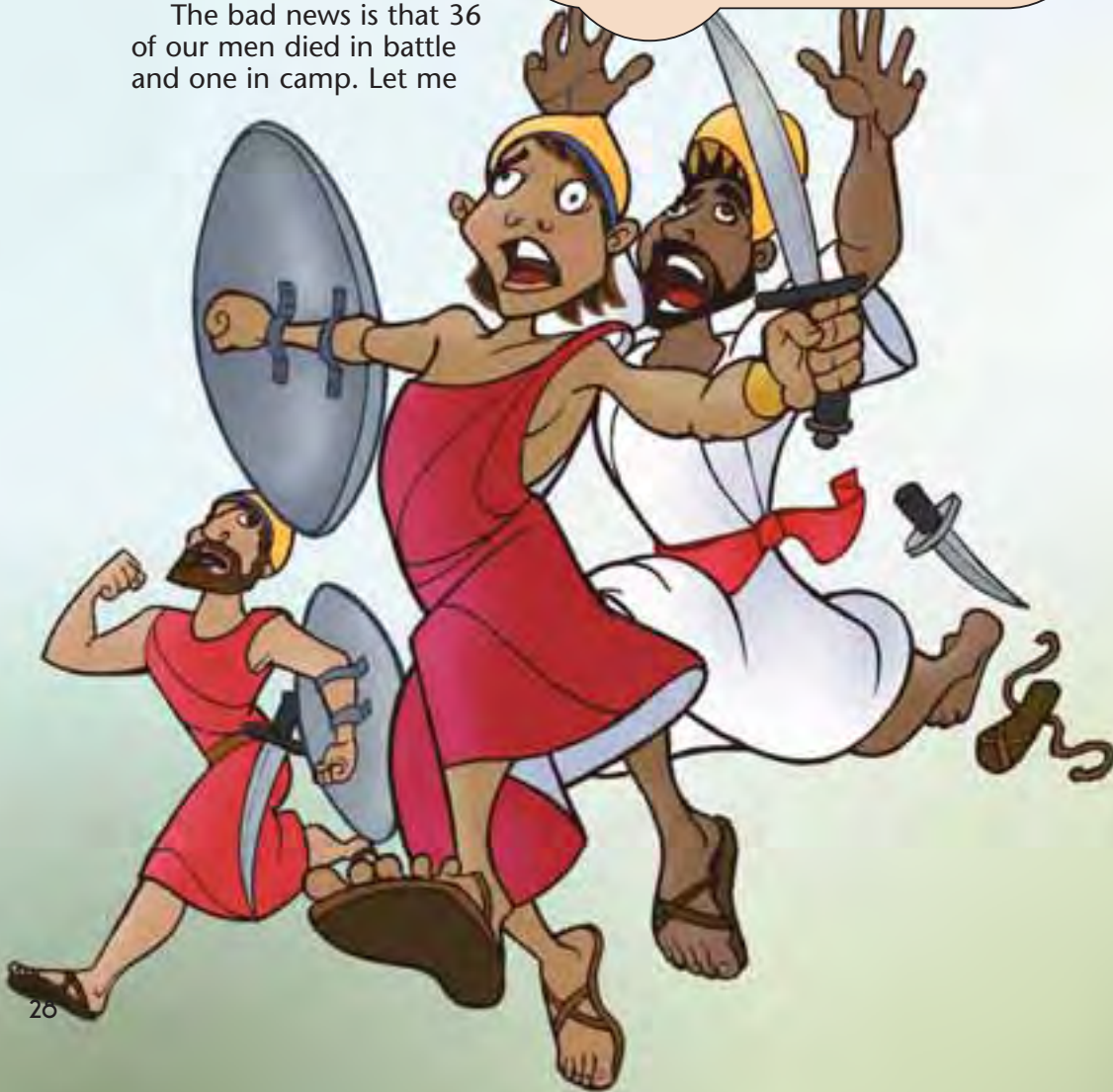
Read Read Joshua 7.

Think What two sins had the Israelites committed to cause them to lose their fight against Ai?

Think What emotions does God express in His conversation with Joshua?

Write In your Bible study journal, write down in story form a time when you sinned and tried to hide it. What were the consequences?

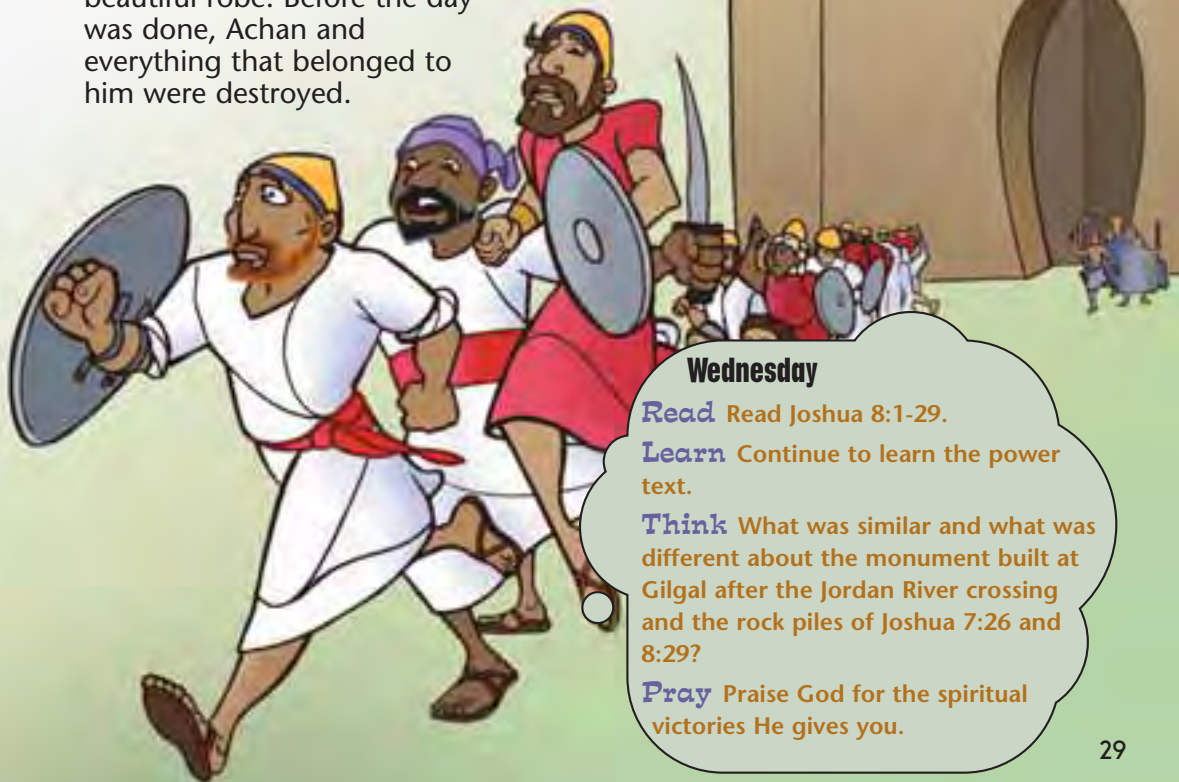
Pray Pray that you will be willing to seek God's counsel before you make decisions.



explain. Without seeking Adonai's advice on this matter, Joshua sent about 3,000 soldiers to take Ai. Our army went up against the city, but the men of Ai came out ready for battle and quickly overpowered our army. Thirty-six of our men were killed, and the rest turned and fled.

The survivors came back to camp and the whole camp was confused, discouraged, and distressed. We did not understand how we could be beaten especially after our victory at Jericho. Joshua and the elders of the camp went before the ark and stayed there the whole day. Finally, Adonai revealed the cause of our defeat: When Israel entered Jericho after the walls fell down, someone took some of the things that were to be set aside for Adonai.

Joshua told us to consecrate ourselves; the next day Adonai singled out the one who had defiled the camp by taking things from Jericho. It was Achan. He took money, gold, and a beautiful robe. Before the day was done, Achan and everything that belonged to him were destroyed.



Wednesday

Read Read Joshua 8:1-29.

Learn Continue to learn the power text.

Think What was similar and what was different about the monument built at Gilgal after the Jordan River crossing and the rock piles of Joshua 7:26 and 8:29?

Pray Praise God for the spiritual victories He gives you.

Soon after that, Adonai instructed Joshua to take the whole army and attack Ai. Thirty-thousand men went out at night to wait behind the city. The next day another 5,000 men were sent to the west of the city. The rest of us set up camp in front of Ai. The next morning all the soldiers of Ai came out to attack us, and we fled. We drew them away from the city, and Joshua gave the signal for the men lying in ambush

Thursday

Read Read Joshua 8:30-35.

Think Think about how the Israelites passed on stories and God's laws to their children. What is similar to the way you learn about God? What is different?

Ask Ask a grown-up about a specific time when they sought God's guidance and how it turned out.

Pray Thank God for giving you the Bible to seek His counsel from.

to attack and burn Ai. When we saw smoke rising in the distance we turned on our enemies, and the ambush attacked them, too. Adonai was with us, and that day He delivered Ai into our hands.

Baram, this has been a bitter lesson for us, suffering defeat to Ai, but we must not be discouraged. We must always remember to seek Adonai for His will, and we must be careful to obey His commands.

Take care, my son. I will come home and see you as soon as I can.

—Abba

Friday

Recite Recite the power text by memory.

Discuss With your family discuss what has been most like a Jericho experience in your lives, and what has been most like an Ai experience.

Act With younger brothers or sisters, act out the story of the Battle of Jericho.

Sing Use your voice muscles to worship God as the Israelites did. Sing some praise songs.

Pray Pray that you will find success in serving God.